

control circuit for propagating row and column control signals for each of said M rows and said N columns, each control signal having a frequency and a phase component; and

wherein [said] each transducer [elements and said control circuit are] element is configured to function as an active device so as to achieve a combining at each transducer element of the frequency and phase components of the row and column control signals for that transducer element in such a manner as to provide a focused acoustic signal at a given focal distance and direction from said array.

28 (amended). The apparatus of claim 27, wherein [said coded signal is a chirp] M equals one.

30 (twice amended). An acoustic energy receiving apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of electro-acoustic transducer elements arranged in an M row by N column array;

control circuit for propagating row and column control signals for each of said M rows and said N columns, each row and column control signal having a frequency and a phase component; and

wherein said transducer elements and said control circuit are configured so as to achieve a combining at each transducer element of the frequency and [a] phase components of the row and column control signals for that transducer element with a resultant electrical receive signal, corresponding to an acoustic signal incident on that transducer element, in such a manner as to modify the frequency and phase of the transducer element's electrical receive signal so as to achieve the coherent combination of the modified electrical receive signals from all of said plurality of transducer elements; and

a filter that filters spurious frequencies output from the transducer elements;

wherein said transducer elements, control circuit and filter are configured [to coherently combine the electrical receive signal of each of said transducer elements and] to achieve focused acoustic signal reception at a given distance and direction from said array.